

REMARKS

The Examiner applies a new prior art rejection—namely the rejection of claims 27-31, 33, 34, 36, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Bernklau further in view of Koike plus a third new reference Okuno. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Bernklau-Halvor further in view of Koike further in view of Okuno, further in view of a fourth reference, Chiba. Claims 35 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Bernklau further in view of Koike further in view of Okuno and further in view of a fourth reference Parry.

Claim 27 distinguishes at least by reciting each monitoring unit detecting a respective error state at a respective time point created by a single causative error; transmitting the error states and the respective time points to a coordination module; storing the received error states and the respective time points to form a temporally successive error state pattern comprising said error states and the respective time points; and evaluating the stored error state pattern caused by the single causative error with predetermined error state patterns, each of said predetermined error state patterns defining a temporal sequence of error states at respective time points of a predetermined single error type, and determining at least one error type identifying said single causative error.

The Examiner agrees at the middle of page 4 of the Office Action that neither Koike nor Bernklau have these features. However the Examiner now cites the new reference Okuno Fig. 9 as having an error log consisting of error code and time, and by also citing Fig. 12.

First it is noted that Okuno has nothing to do with printers or copiers, whereas Claim 42 is limited to printers or copiers. Okuno discloses an error log in the medical

field where Fig. 9 lists definite types of abnormalities occurring at different times. But these abnormalities are not related to a single causative error. They are different occurring errors with different error codes. In Fig. 12 a number of different kinds of errors occurring in a day or in an hour or in consecutive days is tabulated. In Fig. 13 the number of errors are counted to determine a specified level of error.

First it would not be obvious, and there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to combine, the medical error detection log with different error types of Okuno with a printer reference Bernklau.

Even more importantly, however, the Fig. 9 errors occurring in Okuno are for different errors and not related to a single causative error. Furthermore, in Figs. 12 and 13 the times that the errors occur are not used at all in determining an error state pattern where error states and respective time points are compared to error states and respective time points in a predetermined error pattern relating to a single causative error. In Figs. 12 and 13 Okuno merely counts the number of errors but doesn't use the time points for an error state comparison to a predetermined error state pattern for a single causative error. And even if the time points in Okuno were inserted in the event list of Bernklau would still be no teaching of a predetermined error state pattern containing time points for comparison to time points of a detected error state pattern.

In the Office Action, page 4, second paragraph from bottom, the examiner asserts that Okuno teaches "the pattern of the errors are EVALUATED via a lookup table." However, there is no disclosure of a lookup table in Okuno. At col. 5, lines 32-33 he discusses an "error determination pattern" (Fig. 12) and an "error determination table (Fig. 13)" However, it is clear from Okuno (see Figures 12, 13)

that he does not compare error state patterns in accordance with claim 27. The claim 27 error state patterns are completely different to the patterns/tables of Okuno since BOTH of the claim 27 patterns (namely the detected error state patterns and the stored predetermined error state patterns) comprise error STATES AND respective TIME POINTS.

Okuno's Figures 12, 13 do NOT provide any time POINTS, but simply statistical values about HOW OFTEN one or more errors occurred during one day.

Okuno's Figures 12, 13 do not specify specific errors. Okuno just provides statistical values about all errors or about how often a same error or different errors occurred in 1 day (see Fig. 13). The claim 27 method differs from this since claim 27 recites detected error states represented by error signals of specific monitoring units created by a single causative error.

Okuno does provide specific error states and specific error time points in Fig. 9. However, there is no indication in Okuno as how to match these concrete values with the patterns in Figure 12 and the tables in Fig. 13. The structure of values in Fig. 9 is completely different than the structure of Figs. 12 and 13. In contrast, in claim 27 the same detected error states and time points are directly compared with respective stored predetermined error states and time points. Therefore, in claim 27 errors can be evaluated much more precisely and in more detail than by Okuno's patterns/tables as shown in his Figs. 12, 13.

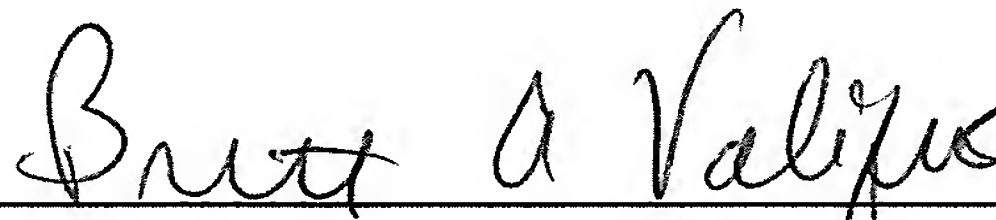
Dependent claims 28-37 distinguish at least the reasons noted with respect to claim 27 and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

Device claim 38 distinguishes for the reasons noted with respect to method claim 27.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,



(Reg. 27,841)

BRETT A. VALIQUET
SCHIFF, HARDIN LLP
CUSTOMER NO. 26574
Patent Department
233 South Wacker Drive,
Suite 6600
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312/258-5790
Attorneys for Applicant(s).

CH2\8956882.1